

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-16, and 18-28 are pending in the present application. Claims 4, 17, and 29 have been canceled. Claims 1, 11, 13, 16, 23, 25, and 28 are independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 4-11 and 17-23 recite allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form including the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant further appreciates that claims 25-27 would be allowed if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant also appreciates the allowance of claims 13-15.

Applicant has accepted the Examiner's determination of allowability in the above amendment. Specifically, the allowable features of claim 4 have been added to independent claims 1 and 28. In addition, claim 11 has been rewritten into independent form including the features of the base claim (1) and there is no intervening claim. Also, the allowable features of claim 17 have been added to independent claim 16. Claim 23 has been rewritten into independent form including the features of base claim 16. Lastly, claim 25 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Thus, all pending claims are now

clearly in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests an early indication therefore in a formal Notice of Allowance.

Title Objection

The Title is objected to as not being sufficiently descriptive. This objection is respectfully traversed. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's suggestion for a new Title and has utilized it in the above amendment.

Abstract Objection

The Abstract is objected to because it does not enable one to quickly determine from a cursory inspection the nature and jest of the technical disclosure as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.72(b). This objection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has utilized the Examiner's helpful suggestion to draft a new Abstract. Applicant respectfully submits that this new Abstract satisfies 37 C.F.R. 1.72(b) and, thus, the Abstract objections should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Drawings Objections

Figs. 3 and 10 have been objected to because of several noted informalities. Applicant respectfully traverses this drawing objection.

In reply thereto, Applicant submits a proposed drawing correction that corrects the drawings as outlined in the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests approval of this proposed drawing correction and reconsideration and withdrawal of the corresponding drawing objection.

Disclosure Objections

The disclosure has been objected to because of various noted informalities and minor errors. This objection is respectfully traversed.

Again, Applicant appreciates the Examiner's very helpful and detailed suggestions for revising the specification to remove minor informalities. Applicant has adopted the Examiner's suggestions and has also carefully reviewed the entire specification for any other minor errors. The above amendments incorporate all these changes outlined above. In view of these amendments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the specification objection.

Claim Objection

The claims are objected to because of various minor informalities as detailed in the Office Action. This objection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner's thorough and rather helpful suggestions for improving the claims have been utilized in the above amendment. Applicant has also carefully reviewed the claims to ensure that all informalities have been addressed. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdraw of the claim objection.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph Rejection

Claims 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Applicant finds the Examiner's suggestion for revising claim 25 to be very helpful and appropriate. The above amendments incorporate the Examiner's suggested changes. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection.

Art Rejection

Claims 1-3, 16, 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Madany (U.S.P. 5,935,242). In

addition, claims 12 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madany. These rejections, insofar as they pertain to the presently pending claims, are respectfully traversed.

As noted above, the subject matter indicated as being allowable has been incorporated into all of the pending independent claims. Therefore, these art rejections are now moot and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdraw thereof.

Conclusion

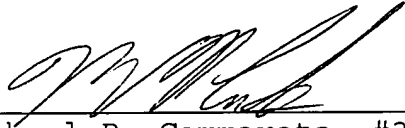
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael R. Cammarata (Reg. No. 39,491) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

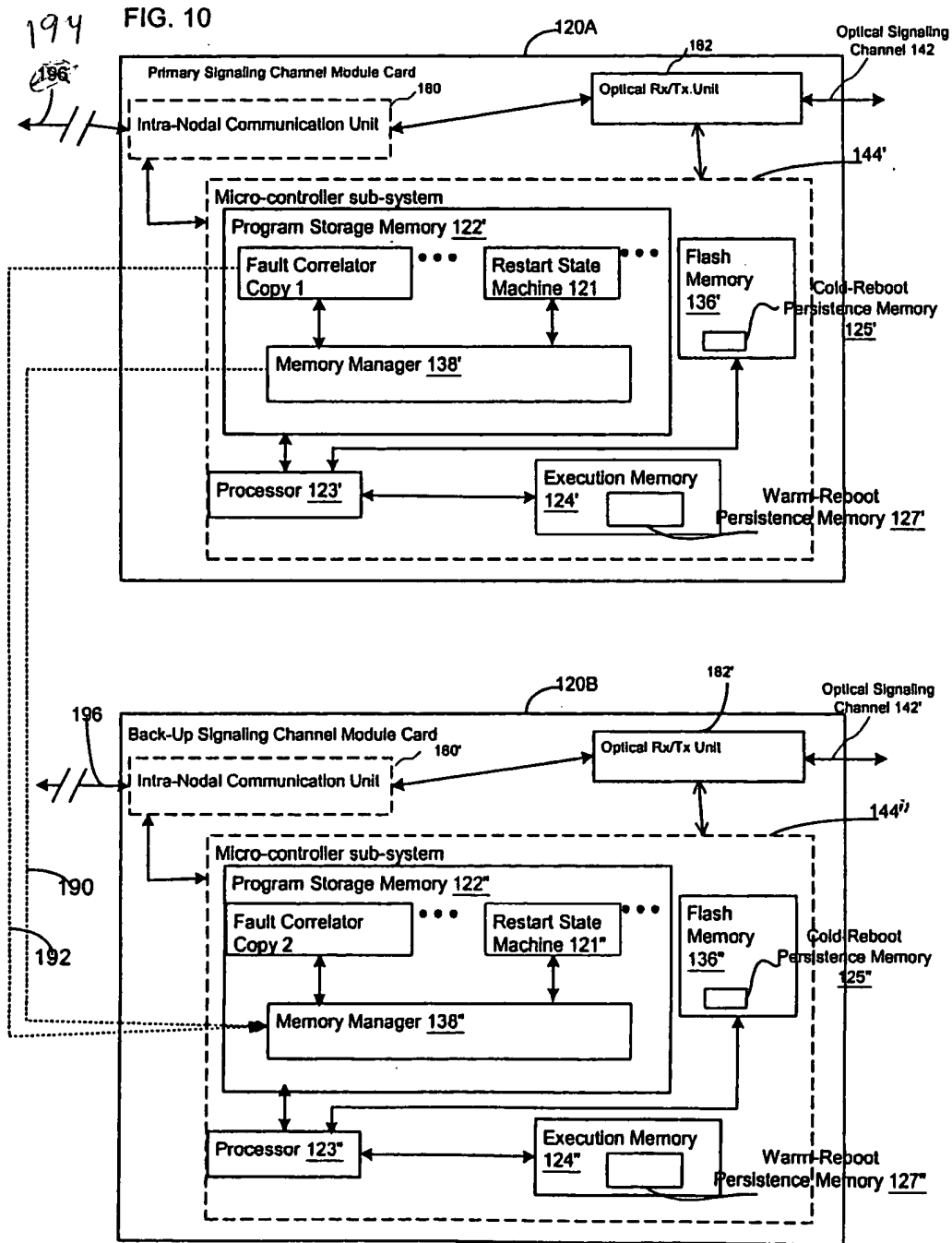
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By 
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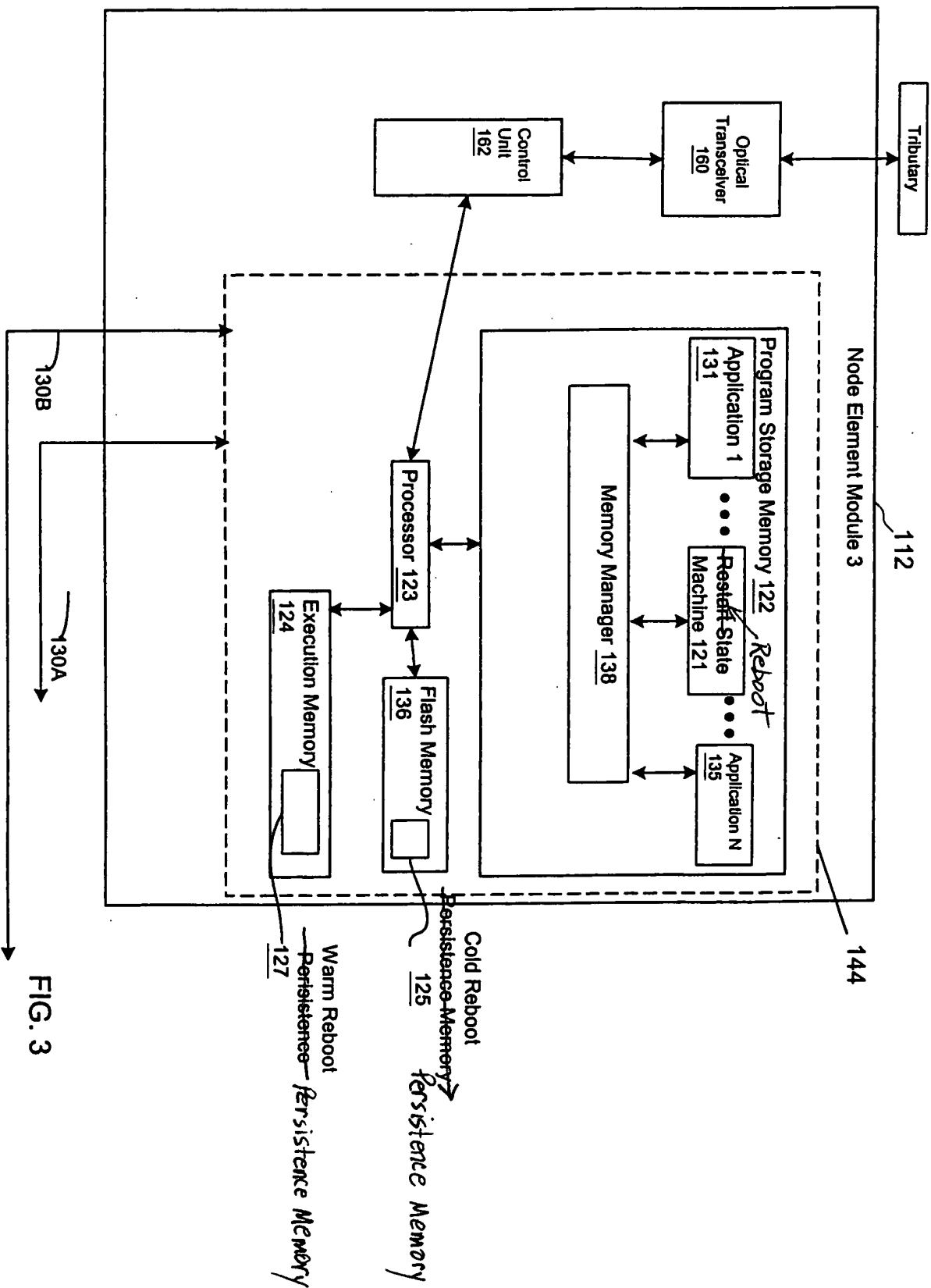


FIG. 3

